

Widow's Retreat

Mme. Ngo Dinh Nhu had arrived in the U.S. 5 1/2 weeks ago as a crusading wife; last week she left, an embittered widow. From Beverly Hills she flew to Rome to join her three younger children, Son Trac, 15, Son Quyhn, 11, and Daughter Le Quyen, 4. Either because of a shortage of funds or a misunderstanding with California's Young Republicans, who had originally invited her to Los Angeles to speak, Mme. Nhu departed owing nearly half of her \$2,000 bill at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel (the manager did not seem worried about collecting). Following her by mail was a stack of books, among them *To Live Again* and *TNT: The Power Within You; How to Release the Forces Inside you and Get What You Want*.

At the airport, reading a long farewell statement, she referred to the fact that the U.S. had encouraged the coup: "Judas has sold the Christ for 30 pieces of silver. The Ngo brothers have been sold for a few dollars." By this Mme. Nhu meant the aid that the U.S. had withheld from Diem but restored "to those who would not hesitate to turn their guns against their own duly elected leaders." She had heard reports that, after being murdered by South Viet Nam's new rulers, "President Ngo Dinh Diem's face was serene in death, and my husband had a slight smile though his face was all streaked with blood. I think therefore that I cannot be less serene than they."

In Rome she was welcomed by Diem's brother, Archbishop Ngo Dinh Thuc, who had been attending the Vatican Council; then she was whisked to a tree-haded convent for a rest. Eventually, Mme. Nhu insists, she will return to South Viet Nam. Said she: "My burden will be hard indeed, for the Devil has not been disarmed and is still trying to eat me down."

RUSSIA

The Scholar as Pawn

In part, Soviet accusations of alleged American espionage have been motivated by the Kremlin's desire to divert domestic discontent against foreign agents. By arousing fear of foreign spies, the Kremlin has sought to break down the attraction of Western culture to the Soviet people.

So wrote Professor Frederick C. Barghoorn in *The Soviet Image of the United States* more than a decade ago. The book proved prophetic last week when Russians announced that Barghoorn, longtime chairman of Yale's Russian studies program, was under arrest "on espionage." Then, as suddenly as began, Moscow called off its seemingly pointless exercise. After being held in Moscow prison for 16 days, the scholar was released and expelled from the country.

Warmly Welcome. Barghoorn is a former member of the influential band

of experts who have devoted their careers to the occult art of Kremlinology. Ever since the first U.S.-Soviet cultural exchange agreement was signed in 1958, he has also played a key role in arranging for Russian and American intellectuals to travel and study in one another's countries. Faced with the news of Barghoorn's arrest, President Kennedy postponed negotiations for an extension of the exchange program, firmly gave the official U.S. answer to the Russian charge: "He is a distinguished scholar. He was not on an intelligence mission of any kind."

A shy, serious bachelor, Barghoorn liked nothing better than to hole up for a ten-hour stretch in his top-floor office at Yale's Hall of Graduate Studies. There, amidst bundles of old laundry and discarded razor blades, he meticulously pored over books, clippings and back issues of Pravda. Russian-speaking

from the East. One afternoon last week the U.S. embassy was informed that Barghoorn had been arrested as a spy "a few days ago." Six times during 48 hours, the U.S. protested that Barghoorn was innocent, demanded his release. But all U.S. Ambassador Foy Kohler got from Deputy Foreign Minister Valerian Zorin was a stubborn *nyet*. Nobel Prizewinner John Steinbeck, winding up a trip through Russia, declared angrily: "They should have arrested me. I covered more territory and asked more questions." In New Haven, Yale students and faculty launched a movement to circulate protest petitions on 1,200 U.S. campuses.

The uproar was obviously more than the Kremlin had bargained for. Five days after his arrest was announced, the prisoner was taken from his cell, put in a car packed with Soviet plainclothes cops, and driven to the ramp of a Lon-



PROFESSOR BARGHOORN (CENTER) & FELLOW TOURISTS* IN RUSSIA (1961)

The uproar was effective.

Barghoorn knew his subject firsthand. From 1942 until 1947 he was a press attaché at the U.S. embassy in Moscow. To avoid trouble, Barghoorn deliberately did not carry a camera during five trips to Russia between 1956 and last March, when he arranged for scholarly exchanges or gathered information for his recent books, *Soviet Russian Nationalism* and *The Soviet Cultural Offensive*. His critical opinions were no secret ("While talking peace, the Kremlin wages war"); nevertheless, he got a friendly welcome from academicians wherever he traveled inside Russia.

The latest trip seemed no exception. Traveling on a 30-day tourist visa, the professor spent most of his time touring the capitals of Soviet Asia, including Tashkent, Samarkand and Alma Ata. Back in Moscow, he stopped off for a drink at the apartment of U.S. Minister-Counselor Walter J. Stoessel. From there, his chauffeur drove Barghoorn back to the Hotel Metropole at about 7:15 p.m. on Oct. 31. Then he disappeared from view, but since Barghoorn was scheduled to fly to Warsaw the next day, it was not unusual.

don-bound airliner. Barghoorn was "not doing the proper work" of a scholar, insisted the Russians, but he was being released because of the "personal concern expressed by President Kennedy."

One theory, publicly advanced by former CIA Chief Allen Dulles, is that the Soviet had arrested Barghoorn by way of retaliation: the U.S. has just expelled two Soviet diplomats for spying and arrested a "chauffeur" for a Soviet trade agency in Manhattan. According to this theory, the Russians meant to swap their spies—a blackmailing deal which President Kennedy had previously ruled out. Another explanation, forecast by Barghoorn himself in his book, is that the Kremlin may feel that cultural exchanges have gone too far, that Russians have become too ready to mix with visiting foreigners. The arrest of a well-known U.S. professor would serve as a warning to Russian citizens that "the attraction of Western culture" can still be extremely unhealthy.

* With Yale's Mathematics Professor Einar Hille and now-President Kingman Brewster